

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GUAYAQ 00540 022234Z

15

ACTION SCSE-00

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 SSO-00 SCA-01 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 DODE-00 L-03 EB-07 COME-00 DOTE-00 CG-00

OES-06 H-02 /037 W

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P 022215Z APR 76

FM AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4512

UNCLAS GUAYAQUIL 0540

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC : (YACHT DRAGON)

SUBJ: W/W

1. CONGEN HAS RECEIVED BRIEF UNCONFIRMED REPORT FROM ECUADOREAN MERCHANT MARINE DIRECTORATE THAT CAPTAIN OF US FLAG YACHT DRAGON DISMISSED THREE CREWMEN FOR INCOMPETENCE AND ABANDONED THEM IN GALAPAGOS ISLANDS (MORE THAN ONE THOUSAND MILES OFF ECUADOREAN COAST.) VESSEL REPORTEDLY DEPARTED GALAPAGOS MARCH 28 PRESUMABLY EN ROUTE SOUTH PACIFIC.

2. ACCORDING INFO OBTAINED FROM USDAO QUITO, DRAGON WAS DOING RESEARCH IN GALAPAGOS FOR ITS OWNERS WATER ISLE BOTANICAL GARDENS, BOX 570, ST. THOMAS, VIRGIN ISLANDS (TEL. 774-0646) DR. WALTER H. PHILLIPS IS DIRECTOR. RESEARCH MAY HAVE SOME SUPPORT FROM GOVT. VIRGIN ISLANDS. DRAGON IS BELIEVED HAVE NORMAL COMPLEMENT OF FOUR CREWMEN AND FOUR SCIENTISTS AT LEAST TWO OF WHOM ARE NOT AMCITS.

3. WEATHER CONDITIONS AROUND GALAPAGOS HAVE PREVENTED RADIO CONTACT FROM GUAYAQUIL TO CONFIRM THE ABOVE AND OBTAIN MORE FACTS. CABLES TO GOVERNOR OF ISLANDS ARE UNANSWERED. SITUATION IS COMPLICATED BY FACT THAT THE ONE FLIGHT PER WEEK SERVING GALAPAGOS IS BOOKED UNTIL APRIL 30. FURTHER, RATES AT THE ONLY HOTEL IN ISLANDS ARE VERY HIGH.

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4. ACTION REQUESTED:

REQUEST DEPT CONTACT WATER ISLE TO SEE IF THEY HAVE
RECEIVED ANY WORD FROM THE SHIP CONFIRMING ABOVE. IF SO,
CAN THEY CONFIRM THAT THE ABANDONED CREWMEN ARE AMCITS?
WILL WATER ISLE COVER COSTS OF REPATRIATION? IF THEY REFUSE
PAY COSTS CAN THEY PROVIDE NAMES AND ADDRESSES NOK.

5. WATER ISLE MAY BE ABLE MAKE TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS THROUGH
CHARLES DARWIN STATION IN GALAPAGOS. IF NOT, CONGEN WILL
ARRANGE TRAVEL ON RECEIPT SCS TRUST. TRAVEL FROM GALAPAGOS
TO GUAYAQUIL WILL HAVE TO BE BY BOAT WHICH TAKES THREE DAYS.
COST \$75.00. GUAYAQUIL-MIAMI AIRFARE DOLS 204.00.
SUBSISTENCE SHOULD BE CALCULATED AT DOLS THIRTY PER PERSON
PER DAY.
BISHTON

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